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PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Chairman Thanks Commissioners For Good Work.

REGRET MAYOR'S LEAVING

Exceptionally Good Work Has Been Accomplished During Year.

The public utilities commission held its final meeting on Thursday afternoon, and disposed of a number of small items of business. Commissioner Jared Vining reported that rinks have been started at Victoria, Queen's and Thames Parks. The Soldiers Aid Commission applied for the proceeds of the check room in connection with the Victoria Park rink, but as the commission had previously decided to use any profits from this source to provide additional park benches, it could not comply with the request. General Manager Buchanan said the rink was very little more than self-supporting, and the surplus would be small. Adjustment of wages of the operators

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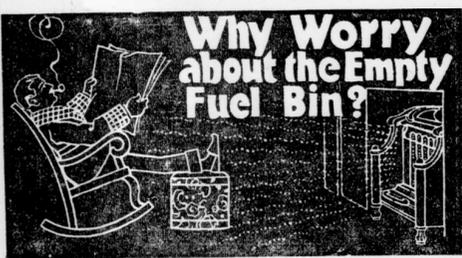
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SMALLMAN INGRAM



and other employees was left with the general manager.

Lead Spotted Suit.
Martha Dowling applied for payment for damages to a suit, which was caused by molten lead dropping on it from a hydro fuse. She was on a street corner waiting for a car. A fuse on the pole above her burned out because of overloading on the wires, and the lead fell on her dress. This matter was also left with the manager.

Election of representatives to the Municipal Electrical Association and Western Fair Association was referred to the 1920 board.

At the conclusion of the meeting Chairman Philip Pocock thanked the other commissioners for their co-operation with him throughout the year. The parks, electrical and water departments had all been satisfactory, although water expenses were higher than usual, and some of the money had been invested in capital expenditures.

Mayor Valuable Asset.
"The members of the commission are entitled to my thanks and to the thanks of the citizens," he said. "I am sorry we are not to have Mr. Somerville with us next year. He has been a most valuable asset to the commission, and his advice has always been good."

Referring to Mr. Vining's work as park's commissioner, he said that it spoke for itself, especially when it was considered how little money was available for his purpose.

"No one regrets his retiring more than I do. A man of his business capacity is a loss to the city. It is a position which requires special capabilities. A man of good outlook is needed, one who is capable of grappling with big problems, and there are many to be faced."

Praise Due Manager.
"General Manager Buchanan and the whole staff deserve a great deal of praise. Mr. Buchanan is certainly an ideal manager. I think he is just with the employees, and that we are getting good value for the money we expend in wages. London is easily first in the hydro system. We are using today 2,500 more horsepower than last year. The hydro show has been a wonderful success. We are giving the citizens something of value at a reasonable price. I think it will soon be necessary for us to move our accounting department upstairs to make more room."

Commissioner Vining replied that the greater part of the credit was due to Parks Superintendent Graham and Mr. Buchanan. He thought the department had made the best move in its history in the appointment of Mr. Graham. He said he had enjoyed the work of the commission, and intended to be back next year if possible.

Responsibility Growing.
"The city is growing, and with it is growing the responsibility of every department. The work of this commission and all others is increasing. It takes more time and requires more sacrifices than most of the citizens realize. They don't realize how much free work is done for them."

Commissioner Mitchell also expressed his pleasure with the work of the commission, stating that the year had been one of the most harmonious in its history.

Co-operation in Work.
Mr. Buchanan expressed his appreciation of the manner in which the commission had co-operated in the work. He pointed out that when the commission was harmonious it was much easier for a general manager to carry out his work properly.

In no past year had there been such a spirit of loyalty among the employees. They all seemed anxious for the success of the business, and the department heads had all been zealous in their management. Several of them donned linemen's outfits after the recent storm and helped to put the system in order, although they were not called on to do so, and received no pay.

Fall to Appreciate.
Remarking on this, Commissioner McFarland said that the average citizen doesn't appreciate the system that has been built up. Its success had been largely due to the fact that the manager had been supported. No member of the commission had gone over his head.

"This whole institution is worth thousands of dollars to the citizens, but it could be shot to pieces easily by elements who don't understand the business and want to interfere in every petty detail," he asserted.

Chairman Pocock also referred to the matter of superannuation of older employees. This was laid over to be taken up in conjunction with other city departments.

QUEST AT PARTY.
Jack Ferguson was the guest of honor at a skating party held in Victoria Park, and later at a supper at Wongs, on Thursday night, given by the members of the staff of the Northern Life Assurance Company.

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